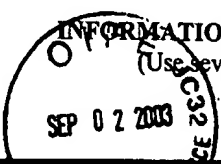


|  |                                   |                                  |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b><br>(Use several sheets if necessary)<br> | Docket Number (Optional)<br>14990 | Application Number<br>09/974,956 |
|  | Applicant(s)<br>Masaru HIRATA     |                                  |
|  | Filing Date<br>October 11, 2001   | Group Art Unit<br>2681           |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |     |                 |      |      |       |          |                            |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------------|------|------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| *EXAMINER INITIAL     | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|                       |     |                 |      |      |       |          |                            |
|                       |     |                 |      |      |       |          |                            |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |     |                 |          |         |       |          |                        |    |
|--------------------------|-----|-----------------|----------|---------|-------|----------|------------------------|----|
|                          | REF | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE     | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION            |    |
|                          |     |                 |          |         |       |          | YES                    | NO |
| NH                       |     | 2000-78106      | 3/14/00  | Japan   |       |          |                        |    |
| NH                       |     | 2000-40981      | 2/8/00   | Japan   |       |          | RECEIVED               |    |
| NH                       |     | 2002-164817     | 6/7/02   | Japan   |       |          | SEP 04 2003            |    |
| NH                       |     | 2002-141831     | 5/17/02  | Japan   |       |          | Technology Center 2600 |    |
| NH                       |     | 2002-111548     | 4/12/02  | Japan   |       |          |                        |    |
| NH                       |     | 11-27180        | 1/29/99  | Japan   |       |          |                        |    |
| NH                       |     | WO 99/57819     | 11/11/99 | PCT     |       |          |                        |    |
| NH                       |     | WO 99/16183     | 4/1/99   | PCT     |       |          |                        |    |
| NH                       |     | WO 00/65738     | 11/2/00  | PCT     |       |          |                        |    |
| NH                       |     | 11-298401       | 10/29/99 | Japan   |       |          |                        |    |
| NH                       |     | 6-148246        | 5/27/94  | Japan   |       |          |                        |    |
| NH                       |     | 9-233049        | 9/5/97   | Japan   |       |          |                        |    |
| NH                       |     | 11-261524       | 9/24/99  | Japan   |       |          |                        |    |

| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

|                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| EXAMINER<br>Nan Hogue | DATE CONSIDERED<br>01/15/2006 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.